

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action and reference cited therein have been reviewed. Applicants have amended claim 49 by this amendment.

The Examiner maintained the requirement for election. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's position, but maintain that the election requirement is improper based on Applicants previously submitted argument and preserve the objections for appeal.

Claims 1-32, 41, 42, 49-62 and 72-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Schnitzius. Applicants have reviewed Schnitzius and have located no disclosure in Schnitzius with regard to passageways through piston 13. As such, independent claims 1 and 49, and all the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated or made obvious by Schnitzius.

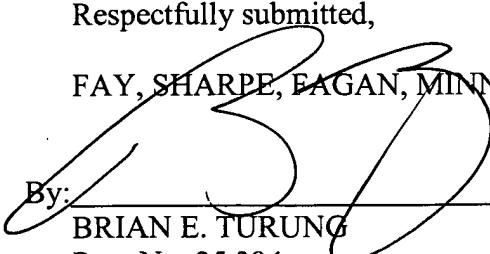
In addition, Schnitzius does not disclose, teach or suggest any type of one way valve arrangement in a guide member as defined in claims 14-16 and 51-52. Schnitzius further does not disclose, teach or suggest two passageways through the guide member as defined in claims 17-21 and 53-54. Schnitzius still further does not disclose, teach or suggest a two passageway system through a guide member that allows for different flow rates as defined in claims 22-26 and 55-56.

Applicants submit that the claims pending in the above-identified patent application are allowable over the cited art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 3-14-06

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(SIGNATURE)